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«*Thou art the UNIQUE one who creates everything.*» »

(Hymn to Amon, Ancient Egypt, eighteenth dynasty, Papyrus Boulaq 17, VI-2)

«*Hail to thee, UNIQUE GOD who created himself.* »

(Hymn to Amon, Ancient Egypt, P. Leyde I-1350, ca. 1300-1200 BC.)

Dear Friends in Spirit,

Once again at the beginning of 2011 we see that tensions between various religious communities are in the headlines. When will Man finally understand the fundamental unity of all religions and the incompatibility between violence and spiritual evolution? "Thou will not kill" is one of the commandments dictated by God to Moses (*Exodus 20, 13*). "Those who believe, those who follow the Jewish religion, the Christians, the Sabians and anyone who will have believed in God on Judgment Day and who will have done good, all those will be rewarded by their Lord. They will not be frightened nor will they be afflicted" states the Koran (*The Cow §62*). In order to understand the absurdity of interreligious confrontation and of all the calls for going into crusade or the holy war, one should go back to the common prophets of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, in particular Moses and beyond Moses, to his country of origin, Egypt of the Pharaohs. As opposed to preconceived ideas, this country was deeply immersed in the creed for One God. The Koran gives evidence of this when quoting Moses' words to Pharaoh: "You know full well that only the Lord of Heaven and Earth ordered such miraculous signs" (*The Koran XVII, 102*). Thus did Pharaoh know of the One God advocated by Moses. Moreover the expression used by Moses to name God is by the way copied on a divine epithet which is common in Ancient Egypt: *neb pet neb ta*, Lord of Heaven, Lord of Earth. This is not surprising at all: Moses was, as it is well known, adopted by Pharaoh's sister and instructed in "all Egyptian wisdom" (*Apostles 7, 22*).

Thus, at the beginning of Christianity, the Desert Fathers, secluded in hermitages and monasteries, in the Egyptian desert used to call God "pa Noute" which is word for word the ancient pharaonic expression "pa Neter" (God).

This image is worth a thousand words: one just has to watch how the Muslims pray as well as some of their Christian brothers (namely orthodox Christians, numerous members of the clergy and monastic catholic orders) : up to this day they still adore One God with quite the same gestures as those of Ancient Egyptians : praying standing up with arms raised (hieroglyph *iaou* in Egypt), followed by a reverence, a genuflexion, bending down and putting one's forehead on the ground (*sen ta*), as in the yogic attitude entitled *yogamudrasana*. In fact, Egypt to which all religions of the Book owe so much is but the summit of a pyramid whose base is made up of the cultural and religious traditions of the whole of Africa. The land of the Pharaohs is only the most visible part of this iceberg. The African continent as a whole asserted the existence of one God since times immemorial. Despite converting to Christianity and Islam, there are still to this day in Africa South of the Sahara numerous indigenous denominations of God The Creator: Gueno, the Eternal for the Fulani; Amma for the Dogon; Rog or Rog sene for the Sérère; Atemit for the Diola, Maa Ngala, Master of all, or Masa Dembali, increate and infinite, for the Bambara; Ekai or Ngai for the Masai; Ntambé for the Bantu; Olodumre for the Yoruba, Nvamé for the Fang; Si or Ndem for the Bamiléké; Imana for the Tutsi and the Hutu. Zrâ for the Dan, Kwoth for the Nuer of Sudan and the Pygmies ... All these names make reference to God the One and Only Creator.

If it is true that all peoples received a prophet, sent or Mursalini as stipulated in the Koran, under which names does the concept of One God was mentioned across the world by these various messengers? God is God, whether His name is written in Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, Bantu, Sanskrit, Serer or Wolof language.

Since Africa is the cradle of mankind according to the paleontologists, it is natural that the first forms of monotheism appeared there and that they have given birth to mankind's spiritual life.

This does not mean however that we should go back to ancient cults. It is just a matter of noting the basic link that exists among all religious families and of being aware of our common roots so as to sincerely apply the message of peace and tolerance advocated by the prophets instead of diverting its significance to achieve economic or political objectives. Every one should choose his or her own path while respecting those of others.

☪ Hotep, Shalom, Salam, Diam, Shanti, Peace, Peace to all human beings and to all reigns!

† † ^ Renpet neferet ! Happy New Year !

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